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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior

versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing interruptions to a network user, the

interruptions being generated by a plurality of senders on a network, the network user having a

permanent reception list the method comprising:

modifying a temporary reception list in response to one of a retrospective activity and a

prospective activity, the permanent reception list and temporary reception list each indicating at

least one sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption;

receiving an interruption from one of the senders on the network;

presenting the interruption to the network user if one of the permanent reception list and

the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the senders on the

network.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the temporary reception list

comprises adding an entry to the temporary reception list upon a determination the time until the

occurrence of the prospective activity is less than a predetermined time.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the temporary reception list

comprises removing an entry from the temporary reception list upon a determination that the age

of the retrospective activity exceeds a predetermined time.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the retrospective and prospective activities

comprise calendar-based entries established by the user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of presenting the interruption further

comprises:

receiving an urgency value associated with the interruption;

comparing the urgency value with an interruption threshold value defined by the network

user; and

presenting the interruption to the network user if the urgency value exceeds the threshold

value.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a user status request from one of the senders;

generating a generic status message if the permanent reception list and the temporary

reception list do not include an entry associated with the sender of the user status request; and

generating a customized status message if one of the permanent reception list and the

temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the sender of the user status request.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein presenting the interruption comprises

presenting an alert to the network user if one of the permanent reception list and the temporary

reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the senders.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the alert comprises a signal that an

interruption has been requested, and at least one portion of an initial message from one of the

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senders and an identification of the at least one of the senders is stored in a table for inspection

by the user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the alert comprises at least one of a portion of

an initial message from the one of the senders and an identification of the one of the senders.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising providing expanded information for

the one of the senders to the network user in response to a user request.

11. (Currently amended) A computer program product for use with a computer system, the

computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having embodied therein

program code comprising:

program code for modifying a temporary reception list of a network user in response to

one of a retrospective activity and a prospective activity;

program code for receiving an interruption from a sender on the network; and

program code for presenting the interruption to the network user if one of the temporary

reception list and a permanent reception list of the network user includes an entry associated with

the sender the temporary reception list and permanent reception list each indicating at least one

sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption.

12. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for

modifying a temporary reception list further comprises program code for adding an entry to the

temporary reception list upon a determination the time until the occurrence of the prospective

activity is less than a predetermined time.

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13. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for

modifying a temporary reception list further comprises program code for adding an entry to the

temporary reception list upon a determination that the time since the occurrence of the

retrospective activity is less than a predetermined time.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for

modifying a temporary reception list further comprises program code for removing an entry from

the temporary reception list upon a determination that the age of the retrospective activity

exceeds a predetermined time.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for

presenting the interruption further comprises:

program code for receiving an urgency value associated with the interruption;

program code for comparing the urgency value with an interruption threshold value

defined by the network user; and

program code for presenting the interruption to the network user if the urgency value

exceeds the threshold value.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:

program code for receiving a user status request from a status requestor;

program code for generating a generic status message if the temporary reception list and

the permanent reception list do not include an entry associated with the status requestor; and

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program code for generating a customized status message if one of the temporary

reception list and the permanent reception list includes an entry associated with the status

requestor.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the program code for

presenting the interruption comprises program code for presenting an alert to the network user if

one of the temporary reception list and the permanent reception list includes an entry associated

with the sender, the alert comprising at least one of a portion of an initial message from the

sender and an identification of the sender.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising program code

for providing expanded information about the sender to the network user in response to a user

request.

- 19. (Canceled)
- 20. (Canceled)
- 21. (Canceled)
- 22. (Canceled)
- 23. (Canceled)
- 24. (Canceled)
- 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A computing system comprising:

a display screen;

a user input device; and

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a processor executing a network user communications program to manage interruptions

to a network user, the interruptions being generated by a plurality of senders on a network,

wherein each interruption is presented to the network user on the display screen if one of a

permanent reception list and a temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the

respective sender the permanent reception list and temporary reception list each indicating at

least one sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption.

27. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing interruptions to a network user, the

interruptions being generated by a plurality of senders on a network, the network user having a

permanent reception list, the apparatus comprising:

means for modifying a temporary reception list in response to one of a retrospective

activity and a prospective activity;

means for receiving an interruption from one of the senders on the network;

means for presenting the interruption to the network user if one of the permanent

reception list and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the

senders on the network, the permanent reception list and temporary reception list each indicating

at least one sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the means for modifying the temporary

reception list comprises means for adding an entry to the temporary reception list upon a

determination the time until the occurrence of the prospective activity is less than a

predetermined time.

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29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the means for modifying the temporary

reception list comprises means for removing an entry from the temporary reception list upon a

determination that the age of the retrospective activity exceeds a predetermined time.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the means for presenting the interruption

further comprises:

means for receiving an urgency value associated with the interruption;

means for comparing the urgency value with an interruption threshold value defined by

the network user; and

means for presenting the interruption to the network user if the urgency value exceeds the

interruption threshold value.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising:

means for receiving a user status request from one of the senders;

means for generating a generic status message if the permanent reception list and the

temporary reception list do not include an entry associated with the sender of the user status

request; and

means for generating a customized status message if one of the permanent reception list

and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the sender of the user status

request.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the means for presenting the interruption

comprises presenting an alert to the network user if one of the permanent reception list and the

temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the senders, the alert

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comprising at least one of a portion of an initial message from the one of the senders and an identification of the one of the senders.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 further comprising means for providing expanded information for the one of the senders to the network user in response to a user request.